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July 1, 1981

Dear Senator Stafford:

Thank you for your letter of June 5 on behalf of the students of the Ohavi Zedek Synagogue concerning the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

The Department's records show that Mr. Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish mission in Budapest, Hungary during World War II and disappeared in January 1945 after Soviet troops arrived. The Soviet Union responded in February 1957 to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government by stating that Mr. Wallenberg died in a Moscow prison on July 17, 1947. Although the Swedish Government officially raised the Wallenberg case on numerous subsequent occasions, citing several witnesses who claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviets have provided no additional information.

The U.S. Government has been interested in the Wallenberg case since it first came to light at the end of World War II. We have sought a full and adequate response about Mr. Wallenberg's fate from the Soviet Government. After we received reports suggesting that Wallenberg might still be alive, we raised the matter with the Soviets on numerous occasions in 1979. That initiative resulted in a formal written reply from Soviet authorities in February 1980 reaffirming their claim that Mr. Wallenberg died in 1947. They also informed the Swedish Government of this finding and indicated that they would have no further information on this matter.

However, the Wallenberg case remains a matter of concern to us. We have attempted to gain information regarding his fate in other ways. U.S. officials conducted extensive interviews with the five Soviet dissidents exchanged for two Soviet spies in April 1979. None of the five ex-prisoners could confirm or lend credence to rumors that Wallenberg is

The Honorable
Robert T. Stafford,

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alive. - More recently, at the December 1980 Review Meeting in Madrid of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), we supported the Swedish position that efforts be renewed to resolve the Wallenberg case. In addition, U.S. representatives attended sessions of a hearing on Wallenberg held in Stockholm in January.

We intend to continue our cooperation with the Swedish Government to seek information that will clarify the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

Sincerely,

RF
Richard Fairbanks
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

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